

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat *Incorporated.*

August 1992

EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

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| Meeting | August 7 | Canning Stock Route- Miss H Burgess |
| Meeting | September 4 | The Southwest of Western Australia- Mr G Binns |
| Excursion | August 9 | Long Forest, Bacchus Marsh- Mrs A Barlow |
| Excursion | August 21-23 | WVFNCA Camp-out, Bendigo |
| | September 6 | Lexton Wildflowers- Mr R Thomas |

... the 'Canning.'



President: Dr K McDonnell Ph.053 326800
Secretary: Mr J Gregurke 394993
Treasurer: Mrs F Williamson 327631
Editor: Mr L Fink 052 861319

Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydlard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m.
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARMSTRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY*

Field Reports: July Meeting

Rohan Bugg Swamp Harrier flying near Kryal Castle.
Lyndsay Fink Spotlight sighting of a Quoll-like animal near Brisbane Ranges.
Helen Burgess Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos flying over Ballarat North to pines on edge of city.
Greg Binns Little Eagle at Winter Swamp but only a few Black Duck remain. Little Pied, Pied and Great Cormorant at Lake Wendouree.
Ken McDonnell At Invermay: Whistling Kite and Red-browed Firetail.
Ken Hammond 40 Long-billed Corellas along the edge of Victoria Park.

Beaufort Excursion Birdlist

Sunday 5th July, 1992

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Brown Falcon | Crimson Rosella |
| Kookaburra | Eastern Spinebill |
| White-eared Honeyeater | Blue Wren |
| Yellow Robin | Maggie |
| Grey Thrush | White -throated Treecreeper |
| White-winged Chough | Brown Thornbill |
| Grey Fantail | Golden Whistler |
| Swallow | Sitella |
| Flame Robin | |

Our list was short but later in the year many more birds would be found in this area. Travelling home Emus were seen near Beaufort and a pair of Brolgas near Carnham.

Diary Dates

August 20-23: WVFNCA Campout, Bendigo.

October 11: Trash and Treasure Stall - plants and goods.

November 6: 40th Anniversary Dinner

Next Meeting Aug. 7 P Murphy 1020 Dana St at 7-30

It was with a great deal of sorrow we learned of the death of one of our sponsors of the syllabus cards. We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Timothy Burger.

40th. ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

The dinner is on Friday 6th. November. Please secure your place(s) by letting one of the following know if you plan to be there:-

Ken Hammond

The Treasurer

The Secretary

Personal guests are welcome.

The cost - \$13.50 per head for the dinner.

There will be a bar where your liquid requirements can be bought.

Payment - Please make your payments at our meeting on the 4th September or at the very latest at the 2nd October meeting.

Venue - Webbcona Bowling Club, Cnr Grevillea Road
& Grandview Grove. 6.30 for 7.0pm

"Cape York" Speaker Rohan Bugg.

The trip up the East Coast of Cape York Peninsular and then to Thursday Island.

We start at Black Mountain a sacred site of the Aboriginal people then to Cooktown with Cook's statue and the Endeavour River, here we saw three Papuan Frogmouths, Isabella Falls, west of Cooktown and then the Normanby River used as a road most times. The old Laura Homestead and it's out-buildings among the interesting things seen were a Black Cimbidium Orchid with many flowers, a blind snake, Two Lined Dragon and a Childrens Python.

The termite mounds are orange coloured but the Magnetic Anthills are grey colour, they are called Magnetic because they run north and south, this is to keep them cool in the midday sun.

The ancient Art of the Aboriginal People is called Quinkin (sic) it has a varied form. Then Windmill Creek where the Golden Shouldered Parrots live, also Denrobium johanas a small blue orchid. Some of the other slides were Red flowered Kurrajong, Blue Winged Kookaburra, Peaceful Doves, Black b Backed Butcher Bird, E. Alba the Poplar Gum some masked finches a female Black Backed Wren and a Brown Tree Snake, this is one of our poisonous s Snakes although it is rear fanged and not considered dangerous.

There were Great Bower Birds, Gheckos, a Large Dragon Fly and two Grasstrees about 15 feet high.

There were Shortnecked Turtles, a Burrowing Frog the Rocket Frog with it's huge legs, Giant Pitcher plants and a St Andrews Cross Spider.

Beside the Windlock River were the ruins of an old Goldmine with the old Steam Engine and a creamy Terrestrial orchid.

Passing Grevillia teretifolia and the Iron Range Rain Forest with its Epiphytic Plants and Birds-nest Ferns, The Fig trees had large butresses and we saw a Lilly Pilly and Hoya mcgillivray.

The spider family was well represented by a Jumping Spider anda Golden Orb spider, there were many beautiful Moths, Green Tree Ants and a large Fig Tree with an Eclectus Parrot.

Graceful Honeyeater and a White Faced Robin near one of the old Gun Emplacements. Passion vine a pest, was prevalent, then to the beach at Albatross Bay with Mangroves and some Liana Vines were we saw an Oriental Cuckoo.

The Largest of our Cockatoos was at Shellburners Bay, this is the Great Palm Cockatoo, there was a legless Lizard there also.

Some of the tracks travelled were a bit hair-raising, the sand dunes were white and the creek was red with tannin, the sand dunes were a white fine sand. We saw the Cooktown Orchid here also a Frigate Bird. The final leg was to Thursday I Island.

Rohan was thanked in the usual way, altogether this would have been an extraordinary trip.

L.F.

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#### SOME RECENT BOTANICAL NAME CHANGES

*Calocephalus brownii* = *Leucophyta brownii*

*Gnaphalium involucratum* = *Euchiton involucratus*

*Helichrysum apiculatum* = *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

*Helichrysum bracteatum* = *Bracteantha bracteata*

*Helichrysum dendroideum* = *Ozothamnus ferrugineus*

*Helichrysum obcordatum* = *Ozothamnus obcordatus*

*Helichrysum rosmarinifolium* = *Ozothamnus rosmarinifolius*

*Helichrysum semipapposum* = *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*

*Helichrysum viscosum* = *Bracteantha viscosa*

*\*Picris echioides* = *\*Helminthotheca echioides*

(And the above changes only include members of the Asteraceae family !)

## ORCHIDS of the BALLARAT DISTRICT.

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No 1 of a series.

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*Pterostylis nutans*      Nodding Greenhood

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Flowering time: June - October

The Nodding Greenhood is one of the most widespread and familiar of our local orchids. It is frequently growing in quite large colonies and also in a wide range of habitats in lightly forested areas.

The striped mid-green hood is about 2.5cms. across and bent well forward into a nodding position. Sometimes there are reddish or yellowish tones towards the flower tip. The sepals are about 3cms long and bend up just above the hood. The labellum is long, strongly curved, pale green with darker edges and a brownish central ridge, protruding well through the sinus. The solitary stem, 10-20cms high, rises from a basal rosette of stalked leaves and has several sheathing bracts.

Some of the areas where this greenhood can be seen flowering at present are:

- Mt. Erip
- Enfield
- Mt. Doran
- Dolly Creek
- Canadian
- Creswick
- Mt. Beckwith
- Linton



## Excursion Report : Beaufort 5 July 1992.

We travelled from Ballarat to Beaufort, from cold drizzle to bright sunshine, to meet our guide and mentor for the day, Ivan Tiley. We were taken to an area of forest that lay to the East of the Beaufort - Raglan road and West of Waterloo. Typical of much of this region, the forest is regrowth on land devastated by gold mining. The upper storey was mainly stringy bark with yellow box and peppermint. Candle barks were dominant in some areas, looking particularly magnificent in the low winter sunshine. The middle storey comprised a variety of wattles, some of which were beginning to bloom. The common heath, Epacris impressa, mainly in the white form, with a good sprinkling of Correa reflexa were the conspicuous elements of the lower layer.

Few birds were seen through although a number of arthropods were observed including a red velvet mite and a small green stick insect.

Budding archaeologists scrabbled around an old domestic tip revealing sherds of Victorian pottery and of beer and gin bottles. No doubt such middens will become important, historically, one day. Nearby was an avian contribution of discarded material - Powerful Owl pellets, but alas, no other signs of this species.

Our thanks to Ivan for an interesting and entertaining day.

K.McD.



Order polyprotodonta Sub Order Dasyuromorphia  
Super Family Dasyuroidea Family Dasysuridae.  
The Brush Tailed Phascogale (Tuan) Phascogale  
tapoatafa.

The largely arboreal Phascogale lives in a variety of habitats where the rainfall is 500 to 2000mm it's preferred habitat is Drysclerophyl Forests, it sleeps during the day in a nest lined with leaves and shredded bark emerging at dusk to feed and returning from time to time to it's nest, the claws on all feet are sharp and long and it can rotate it's hind foot to climb upwards or down. Mating is in winter and after thirty days more young are born than can be accomadated on the eight nipples, the female lacks a pouch but a large fold of soft tissue around the nipples enlarges rapidly and provides protection for the young, which remain attached for forty days, thereafter they are left in the nest. The Brush Tailed Phascogale is the largest mammal in which the male dies at the end of it's first breeding season. The most serious threat is to it's habitat. However, there appears to be ample suitable habitat remote from urban areas, which is unattractive for forestry and unsuitable for farming. These animals should be found around Ballarat area as they are common in it's limited habitat. It is not readily seen, there are two Sub species.

Yellow Footed Antechinus, Antechinus flavipes.

This is one of the few small nocturnal marsupials still seen around gardens and houses in Suburban areas but it's tendency to pilfer from kitchens and even make nests in T.V's sometimes makes it a nuisance sometimes, it is one of the most colourful of the small Marsupials, many farmers and bird fanciers are familiar with signs of its activities it neatly turns it's prey inside out as it is devoured leaving a neatly turned out and everted skin. It breed once a year mating in either late winter or spring after a month's gestation the young are born as many as twelve are carried in the pouch by the mother for about five weeks and weaned after three months, the young then share a leafy nest until the following winter. Although their status is abundant, and even around Ballarat they should be common. Elfin.